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Chief Executive Officer and  
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The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific organization, thank you for signing the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 5116) into law earlier this week and thank you for your consistent leadership and support for science and technology.

AAAS encourages you to continue to support investments in science and technology, as you have previously done, and to carry on as a champion for a robust and sustainable research and development budget. As you are aware half of the nation's economic growth since World War II has been related to science and technology advances. Enhancing budgets for fundamental and multidisciplinary research across multiple agencies will restore our nation's economic health and bolster it for years to come, create thousands of jobs and a better-prepared, better-educated domestic workforce, and help the United States be at the forefront of the next big breakthroughs.

AAAS recognizes the competing priorities you face when developing the Federal Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 and we applaud your recognition and statement that our nation should not be "cutting back" on research and education.

Once again, thank you for signing the American COMPETES Act into law and supporting the science and technology research community. AAAS stands ready to assist you on science-related issues.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner

cc: John Holdren